

EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND REMEDIAL SOFTWARE FOR SOL INSTRUCTION

The purpose of the review is to provide school divisions participating in the Standards of Learning Web-based Technology Initiative with evaluations and correlation of technology-based materials for instruction and remediation. The software review committee of a school division has reviewed the product and submitted the review.

- Only reviews of software/Web sites that are found to be effective for instruction and/or remediation are submitted by a school division.

School Division: York County School Division

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Title: Exploring America's Past
- Version #: Windows or Mac
- Copyright Date: 1998
- Title of Series: Exploring America's Past: A Multimedia Curriculum Full Volume : Complete Program for Windows® (with Videodisc)
- Title of Component [module] if applicable: Product Code: H52124-6
- Publisher/producer: Holt, Rinehart & Winston
- System Requirements:
- Minimum Platform Requirements: IBM PC compatible, 486/DX CPU, 33Z MHz or higher, 8 MB RAM, running Windows 3.1 or higher, hard disk drive with 8 MB free disk space, 3.5" floppy disk drive, color monitor display capable of 256 colors, 640 x 480 minimum resolution, 2x CD-ROM drive or higher, Sound Blaster - compatible sound card, external speakers or (headphones) laser printer
- Highly Recommended Platform Requirements: IBM PC compatible, Pentium or higher, 16 MB RAM, running Windows 3.1 or higher, hard disk drive with 8 MB free disk space, 3.5" floppy disk drive, color monitor display capable of 256 colors, 640 x 480 minimum resolution, 4x CD-ROM drive or higher, Sound Blaster - compatible sound card, external speakers or headphones (recommended), laser printer
- Minimum Platform Requirements: Macintosh 68030 CPU or higher, 25 MHz or higher, 8 MB Ram, with 5 MB RAM available for the application, running System 7.1 or higher, hard disk drive with 8 MB free disk space,

3.5" floppy drive, color monitor display capable of 256 colors, 640 x 480 minimum resolution, 2x CD-ROM drive, external speakers or headphones (recommended), laser printer, standard Macintosh fonts.

- Highly Recommended Platform Requirements: Macintosh 68040 CPU or higher, 25 MHz or higher, 12 MB Ram, with 7 MB RAM available for the application, running System 7.1 or higher, hard disk drive with 8 MB free disk space, 3.5" floppy drive, color monitor display capable of 256 colors, 640 x 480 minimum resolution, 4x CD-ROM drive, external speakers or headphones (recommended), laser printer, standard Macintosh fonts

Standards Of Learning Correlations And Degree Of Correlation With the Content of the Software Product

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE:

- ☒ Virginia Studies SOL #VS.7 (Exceptional), SOL #VS.3; VS.5; VS.6; (Moderate)
- ☒ United States History to 1877 SOL #USI.1; USI.2; USI.3; USI.4; USI.5; USI.6; USI.7; USI.8; USI.9; USI.10 (Exceptional)
- ☒ United States History: 1877 to the Present SOL #USII.1; USII.2; USII.3; USII.4; USII.5; USII.6; USII.7; USII.8 (Exceptional)
- ☒ Civics and Economics SOL #CE.1; CE.2; CE.3; CE.4; CE.5; CE.6; CE.7; CE.8; CE.9; CE.11; (Exceptional), SOL #CE.10; (Moderate), SOL #CE.12 (Minimum)
- ☒ World History & Geography to 1500 A.D. SOL #WHI.1 (Minimum)
- ☒ World History & Geography:1500A.D.to the Present A.D. SOL #WHG.1 (Minimum)
- ☒ World Geography SOL #WG.1 (Minimum)
- ☒ Virginia and United States History SOL #VUS.1; VUS.2; VUS.3; VUS.4; VUS.5; VUS.6; VUS.7; VUS.8; VUS.9; VUS.10; VUS.11; VUS.12; VUS.13; VUS.14 (Exceptional)
- ☒ Virginia and United States Government SOL #GOVT.1; GOVT.2; GOVT.3; GOVT.4; GOVT.5; GOVT.6; GOVT.7; GOVT.11; (Moderate), SOL #GOVT.8; GOVT.9; GOVT.10; GOVT.15; GOVT.17; GOVT.18 (Minimum)

UTILIZATION AND TEACHER PREPARATION

High school U.S. History teachers begin with the chapter planner to select the components of the software they need to use in class. The planner is editable, allowing the teacher to incorporate the software into already established curriculum. Video and Laser Disk support the software that consists of: a Reference Component, (atlas, biographies, gazetteer, glossary, digital media bank, profiles, short readings), a Skill Component, (skill builder, time line, simulations), a Tool Component, (drawing tool, media canvas, text tool), and the Teacher Component - mentioned earlier (chapter planner, diskette management, lesson plan, professional library, records, rubrics & models, and the video opener). The software is networked and used mainly in two settings: the lab & whole group/single-computer, with a large monitor or projection screen.

Type and degree of teacher training required to support effective utilization of the software/Web site.

There are two main areas of training; the management system, and the classroom recourses. The training for this software can be completed in a one-day session, however, because the power of this program rests in its management system, sufficient training should be set aside for this component. Teachers need to spend time incorporating their lessons into the planner to develop an initial comfort level, and to make this valuable to their course. Each of the other components is more easily understood. Time is spent training on the uses of the videodisk in conjunction with "other" productivity software housed on the teacher presentation station, as well as each of the software components included in Exploring America's Past. The Reference and Skill components are easy to use and understand. Instruction for these consists of navigating within the program, and experiencing at least one example of each. The Skill Component requires a bit more focus, taking a particularly close look at the simulations to understand the true value of their uses in class.

Vendor teacher training available for this product - Not sure

If "YES," is cost: included in purchase price;

is training: on-site with company presenter;

quality of training: exceeded expectations

DIVISION'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

TECHNICAL ASPECTS and TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS

Indicate if the software/Web site has been reviewed in either of the following sources:

- In *EvaluTech* (<http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/>) - Yes or No: No
- if yes - date reviewed:

- In *Educational Software Preview Guide* (ISTE)
(<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/imt.html>) - Yes or No: No
-
- if yes - date reviewed:

IF you answered **YES** to either of the above, you have completed the review and do NOT need to complete the following.

For products not reviewed by either EvaluTech or Educational Software Preview Guide, the division provided the following information:

Ease of use Exceptional

Ease of installation and/or setup and/or login Moderate

Scope of content Exceptional

Accuracy of content. Exceptional

Teacher's Guide and/or teacher support materials. Exceptional

Assessment - record keeping and reporting for student progress. Exceptional

Access for students with special needs Exceptional

Authoring system which teachers can use to insert own problems and/or data Exceptional

Pacing – control of by teacher Exceptional. Pacing – control by student Exceptional

Bilingual Minimum

Encourages student interactivity – creativity, higher order thinking, and problem solving Exceptional

Demonstration – specific aspect of a curriculum area Exceptional

Drill and practice with feedback to students Exceptional

Game format – comments and scoring appropriate Minimum

Exploration by students Exceptional

Guided Practice Exceptional

Software program's Internet/Web use – the connection/linking from a non-Web-based program to Web sites Moderate

Internet/Web-based program/activity - the site's links to other sites Moderate

Multimedia media authoring – for student use to develop presentations Moderate

Logic and problem solving – student strategies and input Exceptional

Electronic reference Exceptional

Simulation Exceptional

Within program or Web site - Test/Quiz feature Moderate

Personal productivity tools available for student or teacher use Moderate

Tutorial mode Exceptional

Test/Quiz Generator mode – teacher tool Moderate

Data Recovery System Not Applicable

Addresses student/user security issues Not Applicable

If requires use of Web browser, list browser requirements, including lowest usable version #

If requires the use of “plug-ins,” list required plug-ins:

List the major strengths of this program/Web site: Teacher created lessons can be combined with software lessons to formulate a complete multimedia package. By design, the software is made to follow whatever order the teacher designates.